

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a depressible member having an unactuated condition, said depressible member being movable to an actuated condition from said unactuated condition;

a first membrane connected with said depressible member, said first membrane resisting movement of said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition, said first membrane further providing an increasing return force urging said depressible member to said unactuated condition as an operator moves said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition; and

a second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member to said actuated condition, said second membrane further providing an increasing return force to said depressible member as the operator moves said depressible member to said actuated condition;

said depressible member initially moving relative to said second membrane in a first direction,

said first membrane initially resisting movement of said depressible member without said second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member, and thereafter said first membrane resisting movement of said depressible member

simultaneously with said second membrane, said first and second membranes providing a single tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to said depressible member by said first and second membranes after said first and second membranes resist movement of said depressible member simultaneously, said first and second membranes comprising a single electrical switch as said second membrane contacts a contact member in said actuated condition

~~said first membrane applying a first return force to said depressible member such that said first return force is reducing as said depressible member is moving in said first direction simultaneously as said second membrane is applying a second return force that is also reducing as said depressible member is moving in said first direction.~~

2. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said first and second membranes are configured to have a concave surface facing away from said depressible member in said unactuated condition.

3. (previously amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a depressible member having an unactuated condition and an actuated condition;

a first membrane connected with said depressible member, said first membrane resisting movement of said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition, said first membrane further providing an

increasing return force urging said depressible member to said unactuated condition as an operator moves said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition;

a second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member to said actuated condition, said second membrane further providing an increasing return force to said depressible member as the operator moves said depressible member to said actuated condition; and

a third membrane enclosing said first and said second membranes;

said first membrane initially acting alone and then acting simultaneously with said second membrane and providing a tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to said depressible member by said first and second membranes.

4. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said first membrane has a first end fixed to a lower surface of said depressible member and a second end, opposite said first end, sliding along a planar surface as said depressible member moves from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition.

5. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further including an electrical switch contact adjacent said second membrane.

6. (previously amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said second membrane is at least partially metal and engages said electrical switch contact to complete a circuit.

7. (original) The apparatus as defined in claim 4 wherein said second end of said first membrane slides in a direction transverse to the direction of movement of said depressible member.

8. (previously added) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said depressible member is spaced apart from said second membrane when said depressible member is in said unactuated condition.

9. (previously added) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said second membrane is spaced apart from said

depressible member while said first membrane is initially resisting movement of said depressible member.

10. (previously added) The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said first membrane is constructed integrally with said depressible member.

11. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a depressible member being movable in a first direction from an unactuated condition to an actuated condition;

a first membrane connected with said depressible member, said first membrane resisting movement of said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition, said first membrane further providing an increasing return force urging said depressible member to said unactuated condition as an operator moves said depressible member from said unactuated condition to said actuated condition; and

a second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member to said actuated condition, said second membrane further providing an increasing return force to said depressible member as the operator moves said depressible member to said actuated condition;

said first membrane and said second membrane providing a single tactile sensation to the operator due to a reduction in the combined return forces applied to said depressible member by said first and second membranes,

said first membrane being movable to a first condition wherein said first membrane resists movement of said depressible member, said second membrane not resisting movement of said depressible member when said first membrane is moved to said first condition,

said first membrane being movable to a second condition wherein said first membrane resists movement of said depressible member, said second membrane resisting movement of said depressible member when said first membrane is moved to said second condition, said first and second membranes comprising a single electrical switch as said second membrane contacts a contact member in said actuated condition

~~said first membrane applying a first return force to said depressible member such that said first return force is reducing as said depressible member is moving in said first direction simultaneously as said second membrane is applying a second return force that is also reducing as said depressible member is moving in said first direction.~~

12. (previously added) The apparatus as defined in claim 11 wherein said first membrane and said second membrane are spaced apart in both said unactuated condition and said actuated condition.